

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Town of Brownfield
October 20, 2009

Selectmen Present: Carol Brooks and Erik Walker

Others Present: Wanda Bartlett, Frank & Alvina Day, Michelle Day, Richard Perreault, Linda Pestilli and Cindy Walker

Carol called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. Warrants and minutes were reviewed and approved.

Frank reported that no one worked last Monday because it was a holiday and Ernie was on vacation for the rest of that week. Tuesday was spent performing vehicle maintenance and getting plow equipment ready for the upcoming winter. On Wednesday, Frank and Jeff did shoulder work on Sam Brown Hill Road and picked up the Town's trash. Frank also had paperwork to do. Thursday was spent finishing up the shoulder work on Sam Brown Hill Road, hauling three loads of gravel to Potato Hole Road and more plow preparation was done on the trucks. Carol asked how much work needed to be done to Potato Hole Road, and Frank informed her that this is a "summer maintenance road" which means only enough work is done to keep it passable during the non-winter months. The written electrical quotes are in for the hooking up of the fuel tanks at the new garage. The PW Department will dig the ditch and backfill. Erik made a motion that was seconded by Carol to accept the bid of Wayne Adams in the amount of \$1,805. Wayne expects to be able to perform the electrical work next Tuesday. The next item discussed was the door openers for the new garage. Frank felt he could take the funds for these openers from his building maintenance account; therefore, Erik made a motion that was seconded by Carol to authorize this purchase. The cost for these openers is approximately \$1,400.

Carol thanked the PW Department for cleaning up the brush piles and scrub trees at the Community Center. Several volunteers spent last Thursday night cleaning and organizing inside the Community Center and several other volunteers spent time on Sunday cleaning up the playground area, the front of the Community Center and some inside work. Several volunteers along with the PW Department hauled away trash and brush. A lot of hard work has been done by community volunteers, the Rec. Committee and the Rec. Director. Carol stated that a terrific job has been done by this hard-working crew and thanks to all that participated.

Alvina stopped by briefly and Carol discussed the upcoming budget season with her. It is felt that the Budget Committee is a standing committee with the Selectmen acting as ex-officio members and that the Selectmen should not participate in voting as members of the Committee. They will vote outside of the Budget Committee meetings. Alvina will continue to act as Chair until a new Chair is voted in. The first meeting for this upcoming year will be scheduled for Monday, November 9th at 6:00 P.M. Erik has offered to e-mail all members to notify them of this meeting.

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Chief Perreault reported a quiet week. Last night the Fire Department members got their extrication equipment out and checked. They will try to get a couple of junk cars brought to the Fire Station in order to train and try out the equipment to make sure it is working properly. Last Wednesday afternoon, Richard met with Gary MacDonald, Dave Powers, school nurses and Scott Parker the EMA Director of Oxford County to discuss the upcoming flu season and the H1N1. During the first week in November, vaccinations will be offered to all school children and personnel at MOMS. It is possible that MOMS will also be chosen as the site to offer vaccinations to residents of southern Oxford County at a later date. Bridgton Hospital is involved with the school program. South Hiram will play host to a major disaster training sponsored by EMA. The event will be treated as a major forest fire that would take at least three days to get under control. Richard has completed the Brownfield Emergency Operations Plan and is sending it to the EMA office in South Paris for fine tuning. It will then be returned to the Selectmen for their review and signatures. The original 105 page document has been trimmed down to about 50 pages.

Since there is a vacancy on the Airport Authority Board, Alan Doucet asked for and has been appointed to represent Brownfield. Carol made this motion that was seconded by Erik.

Wanda supplied the Selectmen with a list of names of Ballot Clerks and appointment papers for their signature. Most of the names are re-appointments along with the addition of Nancy Grove as an Alternate. These appointments are for a two-year term.

There has been an error in the amount of Veteran's and Veteran's Widows exemptions given to property owners for the 2008 and 2009 tax bills. The exemption should have been \$6,000 not \$5,000. Contact was made with Maine Revenue Services since last year's audit was performed by them and this error does not appear to have been detected at that time. Linda Lucas informed Wanda that TRIO was made aware of this problem and was supposed to have corrected it. When the accounts are flagged as needing a veteran's or veteran's widow exemption, the software program is not inputting the correct dollar value. Abatements will be issued and property owners will be given the choice of receiving a check (if taxes have been paid in full) or getting a credit toward their 2009 tax bill. The amount to be abated for 2008 for each exemption will be \$10.75 and \$11.60 for 2009. These amounts represent the mil rate per \$1,000 of value.

Wanda has made contact with the Auditors since the Audit Report has still not been received.

Carol brought up the Brownfield Community Center sign and made a motion to move forward with the estimate given by Ward Simonton to have the new sign created. Most of the money needed for this sign was raised during the BBQ Chicken Dinner. Any

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shortfall will come from the BCC expense account. The old "Brownfield School" sign will be given to the Historical Society. Erik seconded the motion and Carol will call Ward to have him get started.

A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:00 P.M. per 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(E) to discuss legal property issues. The Selectmen returned from Executive Session at 7:05 P.M. and asked Julie to inform Steve Sanborn to follow through as deemed appropriate on the properties discussed.

The U.S. flags have been replaced at the Town Office and Community Center. The U.S. flags on the street poles will be taken down after Veteran's Day, and the PW Department will be asked, at that time, to put up the seasonal flags and poles supplied by the Beautification Committee.

Several residents have asked about getting cable service in Brownfield. Julie has received a copy of the agreement between the Town of Fryeburg and State Cable TV (Time Warner Cable). Erik's wife, Cindy, has had several conversations with the "powers that be" on the cable end and more information will be forthcoming if a decision is made.

Erik would like to wrap up the discussion on Stuart Smith's property but will wait until all three Selectmen are in attendance.

A donation of a covered plastic container has been given to the Town to be attached to a post at the front of the Town Office to hold copies of Selectmen's minutes for those that don't have a computer available. Anyone interested in receiving their minutes via e-mail should contact Julie with a current e-mail address. Minutes are also available for review on the Town's website at brownfield.maine.gov.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Watkins
Town Administrator